

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 5396

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PK

SUBJ: NARCOTICS

REF: ISLAMABAD 5273

1. DURING MEETING WITH PRES BHUTTO JULY 5, I RECALLED OUR NUMEROUS EXCHANGES ON NARCOTICS INCLUDING THE LAST ONE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO WHEN I HAD TOLD HIM I EXPECTED TO BE DISCUSSING SOME SPECIFICS VERY SHORTLY WITH QAMARUL ISLAM. IN ANSWER MY QUERY AS TO WHETHER HE WAS AWARE OF SPECIFIC PROPOSAL WE HAD MADE ON PHASING OUT PRODUCTION, BHUTTO ACKNOWLEDGED HE KNEW SOMETHING ABOUT IT AND THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED OUR PROPOSAL WAS RATHER STIFF. I SAID I WANTED HIM TO KNOW THAT WE HAD MADE PROPOSAL IN ACCORDANCE RECOMMENDATIONS BY US. EXPERTS WHO HAD COME TO PAKISTAN AND AFTER CAREDFUL CONSIDERATION BY OUR GOVT. OUR PROPOSAL WAS IN ACCORD WITH THE COOPERATIVE SPIRIT WE HAD ALWAYS FOUND IN BHUTTO SINCE WE HAD FIRST RAISED MATTER WITH HIM EARLY IN 1972. AT OUR VERY FIRST DISCUSSION THIS SUBJECT, WE HAD EXPRESSED OUR INTEREST IN PAKISTAN'S PHASING OUT OF POPPY PRODUCTION AT EARLIEST FEASIBLE DATE. OUR SPECIFIC RECENT PROPOSAL, I STATED, WAS INTENDED TO CARRY OUR DIALOGUE ALONG. OF COURSE THE DECISION WAS UP TO GOP. IF IT FOUND GOOD REASONS WHY IT COULD NOT GO ALONG WITH OUR PROPOSED TIMETABLE, WE HOPED IT WOULD COME UP WITH ALTERNATIVE THAT WOULD HAVE EFFECT OF PHASING OUT PRODUCTION AT EARLIEST DATE ACTUALLY FEASIBLE. CONFIDENTIAL

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2. BHUTTO SAID HE UNDERSTOOD WE HAD BEEN MAKING PROGRESS IN DISCUSSING MEANS OF BEING HELPFUL TO GOP ON NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT. QAMARUL ISLAM HAD ALSO TOLD HIM OF HIS ANTICIPATION THAT US WOULD BE HELPFUL IN SUPPORTING A PAKIST-

TAN PROGRAM TO PHASE OUT PRODUCTION. I REPLIED THAT WE HAD ALREADY AGREED TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF SOME TWENTY-FIVE (25) FIELD INVESTIGATIVE UNITS FOR ENFORCEMENT WORK. FOLLOWING ON BHUTTO'S REMARK THAT ORAKZAI (CHAIRMAN OF NEWLY CREATED PAKISTAN NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD) WAS GOOD THAT INDEED WE CONSIDERED ORAKZAI TO BE HIGHLY CAPABLE AND DEDICATED TO JOB HE HAD BEEN GIVEN. I ADDED THAT I THOUGHT ORAKZAI HAD NOT YET BEEN GIVEN ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT HE WOULD NEED FROM GOP TO GET ON WITH HIS JOB, AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NEEDED SUPPORT WOULD SOON BE FORTHCOMING.

3. I THEN SAID I HOPED BHUTTO WOULD GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT TO SOME POSITIVE STATEMENT THAT HE MIGHT MAKE DURING COURSE OF FORTHCOMING STATE VISIT TO US REGARDING NARCOTICS PROBLEM. AS HE KNEW, AMERICAN PEOPLE WERE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED OVER OPIUM PROBLEM AND WOULD SURELY AND DEEPLY APPRECIATE WHAT GOP COULD DO EFFECTIVELY TO CONTAIN THIS PROBLEM IN PAKISTAN. BHUTTO REPLIED THAT HE HAD ASKED FOR A BRIEF ON NARCOTICS AND THAT HE WOULD CONSIDER WHAT STEP HE MIGHT TAKE IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS VISIT TO US.

4. COMMENT: BHUTTO MADE NO COMMITMENT BUT I AM HOPEFUL THAT OUR DISCUSSION WILL HELP FOCUS HIS ATTENTION FURTHER ON ISSUE OF OPIUM PRODUCTION AND LEAD TO SOME ACCELERATION IN GOP TIMETABLE FOR PHASING IT OUT. BELIEVE THERE IS GOOD CHANCE HE WILL MAKE SOME POSITIVE STATEMENT DURING US VISIT.

SOBER

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